

# The Health Care Monitor

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## Inside this Issue

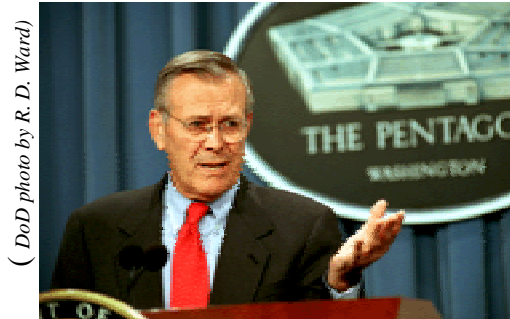
- 2 Bremerton family doctor honored
- Taking "triage" to the streets
- 3 Awards in the wake of the disaster Sept 11
- 4 Madigan facility engineers honored
- Madigan program helps patients manage chronic conditions
- 5 Region 11 field testing Integrated Clinical Database Software
- 6 TRICARE For Life kicked off Oct 1



Lt. Cmdr. Maureen Padden, MC, USN, a local Gig Harbor family doctor, was awarded the 2001 Pfizer/Parke-Davis Teacher Development Award this month. (See story)

## TRICARE Northwest

### Operation Enduring Freedom

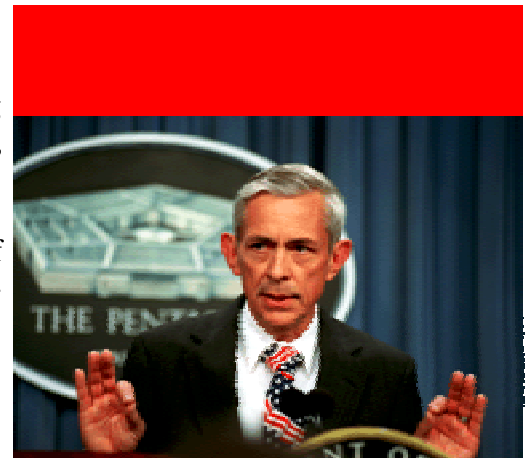


States.

Operation Noble Eagle refers to U.S. military operations in homeland defense and civil support to federal, state and local agencies in the U.S.

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Craig W. Duehring announced during a Pentagon press briefing on Sept. 14, 2001, that President Bush had authorized the partial mobilization of the National Guard and Reserve forces of the United States. Up to 35,000 members will be called to active duty to perform duties related to homeland defense. (DoD photo by R. D. Ward.)

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced that the war against terrorism will be known as Operation Enduring Freedom during a Pentagon press briefing Sept. 25, 2001. Operation Enduring Freedom is the name associated with the war on terrorism outside the United



Military personnel from throughout the Pentagon unite and remove the injured September 11. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Carment L. Burgess)

# Local doctor receives prestigious award

By Judith Robertson  
Public Affairs Officer  
Naval Hospital Bremerton

Lt. Cmdr. Maureen Padden, MC, USN, is a Family Physician who teaches part-time at both Naval Hospital Bremerton and Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, WA, while completing a fellowship in faculty development and a Masters degree in Public Health at University of Washington.

The Gig Harbor, WA resident is among a select group of physicians honored by the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation for her commitment to education in the field of family medicine. Dr. Pad-

den was selected to receive the 2001 Pfizer/Parke-Davis Teacher Development Award based on her scholastic achievement, leader-



ship qualities and ongoing dedication to family medicine. She will be recognized for this achievement during the AAFP Fellowship Convocation, Oct. 5, in Atlanta, GA.

"We are pleased that Pfizer is committed to making such prestig-

ious awards available to our members," said William H. Coleman, M.D., Ph.D., AAFP/F President. "This program helps to recognize dedication and mentorship among family physicians such as Dr. Padden. Her accomplishments go beyond her professional successes with an impressive array of community volunteer activities as well."

The \$2 thousand award, made possible through a grant from Pfizer Inc., promotes interest in the part-time teaching of family medicine after residency and provides funding for each recipient to attend the academy's annual Scientific Assembly, the AAFP's

largest meeting for continuing education.

Dr. Padden received her M.D. degree from the Uniformed Services University School of Medicine and is a graduate of the Family Practice Residency at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton.

The AAFP Foundation, which administers the Pfizer/Parke-Davis Teacher Development Award, is the philanthropic arm of the American Academy of Family Physicians, a 93,100-member national medical specialty association of family physicians, family practice residents and medical students, dedicated to the care of the whole family.

## Independent Duty Corpsmen —Taking "triage" to the streets

By Judith Robertson  
Public Affairs Officer  
Naval Hospital Bremerton

In response to the events of Sept. 11, the Naval Hospital responded with increased security and severely restricted base access and staff and patients alike sat in a line of cars that wrapped back from the gate and snaked up Austin Drive.

Hospital officials knew it was

a potentially dangerous situation, but their concern went beyond automobiles. In quickly called meetings Tuesday morning, the executive team huddled to discuss patient safety. They knew that somewhere in that line of cars there could, quite literally, be a heart attack waiting to happen. From experience, health care professionals knew that people experiencing chest pains or other serious symptoms, often

drive themselves to the hospital. They realized that someone with an acute condition could be in distress -- and waiting in that line.

That's when Senior Chief Roger Campanelli raised his hand. "Give it to us," he said. The decision was made to use the expertise of the Independent Duty Corpsmen. While security forces inspected under hoods, in

*(Continued on page 6)*

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld (left) shares the lectern of the Pentagon briefing room with Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Mel Martinez (right) on Sept. 24, 2001. Martinez announced several provisions enacted to assist mobilized National Guard and Reserve personnel in dealing with their mortgage and rental expenses. (DoD photo by R. D.)Ward).



## Military, civilians receive recognition for sacrifice September 11

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27, 2001 -- Military and civilian personnel

killed or injured in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks will be recognized for their sacrifice, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Sept. 27. Service members will

receive the traditional Purple Heart medal.

Civilian employees will receive the new Secretary of Defense Medal for the Defense of Freedom. Rumsfeld said the civil-

ians killed or wounded in the attack were "combat casualties -- brave men and women who risked their lives to safeguard our freedom, and they paid for

(Continued on page 5)



## New medal unveiled: Defense of Freedom

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced today the creation of the Defense of Freedom medal to honor civilian employees of the Department of Defense injured or killed in the line of duty.

The Defense of Freedom medal will be the civilian equivalent of the military's Purple Heart. The first recipients to be honored will be those Defense Department civilians injured or killed recently as a result of the terrorist attack on the Pen-

tagon.

At the discretion of the Secretary of Defense, the medal may be awarded to non-Defense employees, such as contractors, based on their in-

volvement in Department of Defense activities.

The medal itself consists of a golden circle framing a bald eagle holding a shield which exemplifies the principles of

freedom and the defense of those freedoms upon which our nation is founded. The reverse of the medal is inscribed with "On Behalf of a Grateful Nation" with a space for the recipient's name to be inscribed. The laurel wreath represents honor and high achievement. The ribbon is the red, white and blue. The red stripes commemorate valor and sacrifice. The wide blue stripe represents strength.

The white stripes

(Continued on page 4)





symbolize liberty as represented in our national flag.

The number of red stripes represents the four terrorist attacks using hijacked airplanes and the single blue stripe represents the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

"This medal acknowledges civilian

employees of the Department of Defense and other civilians in service to the Department of Defense who are killed or injured while on duty," said Charles S. Abell, assistant secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy. "It reinforces the total force concept that makes our nation so strong."



Please send the editor of the **Health Care Monitor** news from your Military Treatment Facility. We will try and feature a variety of employees each month from different hospitals to keep your outstanding employees in the news. Please email your news items to [susanne.stevens@nw.amedd.army.mil](mailto:susanne.stevens@nw.amedd.army.mil).

## Madigan employees recipients of the 2000/2001 year Facilities Engineering Excellence Award

## Madigan program helps patients manage chronic conditions

By Sharon D. Ayala  
Deputy Public Affairs officer  
MAMC

Chronic health conditions affect millions of people in the United States every year. These illnesses—diabetes, hypertension, arthritis, asthma, heart disease and many others

disproportionately affect more women than men and more racial minorities, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. With the advent of chronic health management programs and breakthroughs in medicine, there are now more health care options

available to help patients cope with these debilitating diseases.

One such program, "Chronic Disease Self-Management Program," developed by the Stanford Patient Education Research Center, will be held at Madigan Army Medical Center, 10 a.m.-

12:30 p.m., Sept. 6.

This six-week program is sponsored by TRICARE Northwest Region 11, HealthNet and Madigan. For more information or to register call 968-1286. A physician referral is not required.

our liberty with their lives."

Officials said about 90 civilian employees qualify for the medal. "The establishment of this decoration is a fitting honor and a tribute to the extraordinary dedication and service of the department's civilian workforce," Rumsfeld said.

Prerequisites for award of the civilian medal are the same as for the military Purple Heart. The recipient must have been killed or wounded as a result of hostile actions. The secretary also has the discretion to award the medal

to non-DoD civilians, such as contractors killed in the attack.

DoD civilians killed or wounded in the Pentagon, the World Trade Center or aboard any of the hijacked flights are eligible for the Defense of Freedom medal.

The new medal is a golden medallion suspended from a red, white and blue ribbon. The front shows an eagle and shield and the words "Defense of Freedom" while the back has a laurel wreath and the words "On Behalf of a Grateful Nation." There is a space for the name of the

recipient.

The Army's Institute of Heraldry at Fort Belvoir, Va., designed the medal.

The first should be available for distribution in early November.

The Purple Heart and the Defense of Freedom medals are awarded to those killed or wounded in combat. "For most of our history, combat has been something that has mostly taken place on foreign soil," Rumsfeld said.

"These strikes were the first on American soil since the Second World War and the first attack on our capital

by a foreign enemy since the War of 1812."

He said the Sept. 11 attacks brought the battlefield home. "(The medal) is also a recognition that the world has changed and we can no longer be certain of future wars being waged safely in their regions of origin," he said. "I have every confidence that our armed forces and the dedicated men and women of the Department of Defense are ready to meet the challenges ahead."

## Region 11 tests new prevention software

**MADIGAN ARMY MEDICAL CENTER:** Region 11 TRICARE Executive Council (TEC) approved the purchase and deployment of the Integrated Clinical Database software. Tests of the new software began October 3. The software benefits providers by:

- Support primary care team efforts to improve their quality of care
- Enhance primary care and specialist provider immediate access to critical patient care information
- Promote deployment

of the Region's population health management programs in prevention, disease, demand, medical readiness, and community health management

- Improve the health of the Region's TRICARE enrolled population.

### What is ICDB?

**This software allows providers and team support staff rapid access to all regional enrollee data via web-based applications at their desk computer.** *More news in Nov...*

### ICDB Does Not Replace

## Reserve mobilization choice of health insurance plans for families

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem, USA American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21, 2001 -- Federal law provides mobilized Guard and Reserve members the opportunity to keep their employer-sponsored

healthcare coverage.

If the employee will be absent for more than 30 days, the employer may require the employee to pay the entire premium cost plus a 2 percent administrative fee.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Calendar for regional Breast Cancer Programs October 2001



**By: Helen F. McGregor**  
**Coordinator**

TRICARE Northwest Breast Cancer Program Madigan Army Medical Center

gram requests taken this day

### Friday, 26 October

### Wednesday, 5 October

Bake Sale benefits to aid in obtaining Soft-Tee prosthetics

4th Annual Regional Breast Cancer Conference, Letterman Auditorium 0800-1230 PM  
**Primarily for medical personnel**

### Tuesday, 9 October & Friday, 19 October

Self Breast Exam Course, Sakakini Room 11:30 AM

Thursday, 1 November- Women's Health Symposium **To be held at Naval Hospital Bremerton** Preregistration required due increased base security. Call (360) 475-4541 or Email health@pnw.med.navy.mil

### Wednesday, 24 October

Mammo Day (in conjunction with Flu Shot day at American Lake Club) **(tentative date)** Women can have clinical breast exams done and mammo-

**All month Breast Cancer Survivor Storyboard - Medical Mall**

(Continued from page 2)

trunks, briefcases and bags, the highly trained IDCs took their talents to the streets checking on the well-being of people inside those vehicles. After only a short discussion, it could be determined if the person needed to be moved to the head of the line for urgent attention or could be rescheduled.

"We were like Wal-Mart greeters," Campanelli said. "You know -- 'welcome to the hospital. How can we help?'"

By Friday, things were moving more smoothly as normalcy resumed. Family member Janice Lounsbery was in the still considerably long line. "I saw him up ahead, speaking with each driver and then sometimes the car would pull out and leave," she said. "I had just been listening to the radio, to the moment of silence, and I was pretty emo-

tional. I was crying. This man in khakis came up to me with a big smile and said 'Hello ma'am, how can we help you today!' He was so pleasant and it was just so unexpected. I told him I needed to pick up a refill. He told me 'Ma'am, that's one of the easiest things to do today,' and he just waved me through to a special line. It was all just personal service all the way around. When I got to the sentry he made eye contact and was so polite, even the young woman at the gate made eye contact as she waved me on. But that Chief deserves a pat on the back."

Not all situations were that easy. HMCS Michael Slentz said he dealt with a woman in labor, a child with a 103.6 temperature, and an ambulance escorting a man with chest pain.

Lessons have been learned, Slentz, the IDC Program Man-

ager, said. "I have established a special IDC Front Gate watchbill that will go into effect whenever the Commanding Officer, Executive Officer and Command Master Chief determine that a back-up at the gate has created a potentially hazardous situation for our patients," he said.

If that occasion arises again, those "men in khakis" (known more commonly as 'docs' in shipboard settings), HMCS Michael Slentz, Lonny Coleman, Roger Campanelli and Brad Lipter, and HMC Dan Ackerman, will be out there again donning their own style of "surveillance" right alongside the security crews. Affirming, once again, Naval Hospital Bremerton's commitment to quality care, whatever the circumstances.



## TRICARE For Life: It's an unbelievable benefit

By Mr. Thomas F. Carrato **Executive Director, TRICARE Management Activity**

One of the hardest things we face in communicating about TRICARE For Life is convincing eligible beneficiaries that it's real! Health care for life is what many of our older uniformed services beneficiaries believe they signed up for when they committed 20 years or more of their lives to defending their country. **1 October 2001 -- As TRICARE For Life begins**, about 1.5 million uniformed services retirees, their family members and survivors, age 65 and older, will receive expanded medical coverage through the Department of Defense

(Continued from page 5)

The Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act of 1994

allows mobilized reservists to keep health insurance provided through their civilian employer for up to 18 months, said Air Force Col. Kathleen

Woody, director of medical readiness and programs with the Office of the

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

"The employer could continue to provide coverage at no cost to the employee," she said. If the employer requires the reservist employee to pay the whole tab, however, coverage could be cost prohibitive for many families, she acknowledged.

For members who elect healthcare for their families under TRICARE programs, USERRA allows them to return to their civilian employer insurance plans with no waiting pe-

riod or penalty for pre-existing conditions (other than service-connected conditions, which are covered by the military)," Woody said.

"For example, if a reservist elects to get his family care under TRICARE while he's activated and his daughter subsequently is diagnosed with diabetes, he can still go back to his employer healthcare plan under the same conditions as before he was mobilized," Woody explained. "The family

would be covered as if the reservist employee had never left."

Employees with questions about their rights under this act should contact their agency's human resources department or visit the National Committee

for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Web site at [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org).